THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The National Commission for Backward Classes has received a total number of 117 requests for inclusion in the Central List of OBCs in respect of Tamil Nadu. Out of these the Commission has tendered advices to this Ministry in respect of 116 Castes/Communities/Sub Castes/Synonyms.

(c) and (d) The NCBC set up under the NCBC Act, 1993 examines request for inclusion of any class of citizen as backward class in central list of OBCs and hears complaints of over inclusion or under inclusion of any Backward Class in such list and tenders such advice to Central Government, as it deems appropriate. The advice of the Commission is ordinarily binding upon the Central Government. The recommendations received from NCBC have been processed as per the procedure.

Assistance to NGO's in Tamil Nadu

3147. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of assistance provided to the voluntary organizations of NGO's functioning in Tamil Nadu during the last three financial years ending 1999-2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that many cases for grants take a long time for sanctions;

(c) if so, how many such cases are pending; and

(d) the steps being taken to grant aid expeditiously ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The details of assistance provided to voluntary organizations of NGO's functioning in Tamil Nadu during the last three financial years ending 1999-2000 are indicated below :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	No. of NGO's assisted	Amount
1997-98	96	348.63
1998-99	139	468.58
1999-2000	133	769.02

(b) In some cases the sanctions get delayed due to non-receipt or delayed receipt of complete proposals/documents; recommendations alongwith the inspection report of designated authorities; non-availability of funds and complaints against the organisation.

(c) 49 cases are pending.

(d) The Ministry is taking steps such as simplifications in procedure of inspection, computerization frequent meetings with State Government authorities for expediting inspection reports, and educating NGOs on the need to send complete proposals.

EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS IN JOBS

3148. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a proper policy for the employment of disabled people in the private and Government sectors keeping in view the problems in getting jobs by disables;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed by Government to extend job opportunities to the disabled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) The steps taken to promote employment of persons with disabilities are :

(i) Reservation has been provided for persons with disabilities in Government establishments under Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilites (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

(ii) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Employment of the Handicapped.

(iii) The Vocational Rehabilitation Centres under the Directorate General Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour also provide for vocational training and placement of persons with disabilities.

(iv) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation is providing soft loans to the persons with disabilities for taking up entrepreneurial activities.